

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

In response to the election of species requirement issued in this case, Applicant elects Embodiment 1 as shown in Figures 1A-2B, on which claims 1-6, 8, 11-12, 15, 19, and 20 read, for continued prosecution without traverse.

Applicant submits that claims 1-3, 4-5, 11-12, 15, 19, and 20 are generic to all species 1-8; claims 4 and 6 are generic to species 1-4 and 5-8; and claim 8 is generic to species 1 and 3-8. Accordingly, claims reading on non-elected species have been indicated as withdrawn, but are left pending as these claims may be examined if a generic claim is found to be allowable.

Additionally, Applicant has corrected a minor typographical error appearing in claim 17 in this reply. This amendment is fully supported by the original specification and no new matter has been added. Furthermore, the amendment was not made in view of prior art.

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 02008.119001).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/5/04



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